

W. H. Gray
Dec 28 1853
Jan 1854 Recd

Dinner to John Mitchell.

A very large concourse, equal, it is said, almost to the multitude that honored Kossuth, met at the Broadway Theatre, Monday evening, to eat in honor of John Mitchell, the Irish patriot. Charles O'Connor presided. Speeches were made by Mitchell, Meagher, O'Gorman, Judge Emmet, O'Connor, Horaco Greeley, &c.

Strikes in England.

We are not paying sufficient attention in this country, to the effects which the strikes of the English workmen will produce. They may shake the whole substratum of English prosperity more strongly than a Russian war could do. More than 70,000 operatives have left labor. Some are weavers, and some the workmen of the coal regions. Any attempt to induce them to return to labor at their old prices has hitherto been ineffectual. To coerce them by an exhibition of military strength would only result in loss on both sides, without accomplishing anything. If they return to their work, the price of labor must be higher than it has been, thus giving some advantage to our operatives. If they migrate to Australia, or go to other employments, there is just so much lost to the real effective power of England's manufactories.

Cambridge 22^o Dec. 1853

Dear Uncle John

Why do you call that infernal scamp, Mitchell a patriot?

Why speak of coercing men to work; when it is perfectly recognized & settled in England that men have a perfect right to quit work when they please, so they do not prevent those from working who wish to.

Charles & his cousin Henry
Norace are better to be here, on Saturdays.

and there is to be a ^{Christmas} gathering
here on Monday. Will you
not come too? - Or must
we send you the compliments of
the season, and wish you a
Merry Christmas at Hartford.

Ever Yours

Asa Gray